(US $ Million)

Year	Exports		Imports		Trade
	Total	Growth Rate	Total	Growth Rate	Deficit
2003-04	63843	21.10	78150	27.25	-14307
2004-05	83536	30.85	111517	42.70	-27981
2005-06(P)	102725	22.97	142416	27-71	-39691

(P) Provisional Data

Export promotion is a constant endeavour of the Government. A number of measures have been taken recently to further boost exports. These *inter-alia* include bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage. Besides, a number of fresh initiatives have been taken in the Foreign Trade Policy (2006-07) to further boost the exports including Focus Product scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna, Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme and a number of measures for Gems & Jewellery sector.

Increase in sick industries

879. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of industries declared as sick industries during the last three years;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about these industries, which are mainly becoming sick; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to arrest such trends?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a total of 156 industrial units have been declared sick under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 during the period January, 2003 to April, 2006. The year-wise break-up of the cases is as below:

Year	No. of cases
2003	118
2004	34
2005	03
1.1.2006 to 30.4.2006	01

There is no increase in the number of cases declared sick during the last three years.

(c) Besides providing a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industries, steps taken for revival of sick industrial units, *inter-alia*, include setting up of Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and issue of guidelines by Reserve Bank of India to banks for financial support and amalgamation of sick units with healthy units. Wherever feasible rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of the units registered with the BIFR which, *inter alia,* include restructuring of the capital induction of fresh funds by the promoters, Government assistance for public sector units, merger with other companies, relief and concessions in the form of rescheduling of dues by Financial Institutions, banks and Government and change of management.

Role of DGFT in Export-import

880. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the role of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade in the export-import scenario of the country is limited in the WTO regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main functions of the DGFT prior to the liberalization of export-import trade and thereafter; and

(d) the role of the DGFT in the coming years in the expanding liberalized export-import trade of the country?